

**FROM THE LOGBOOK OF**  
**BICKERSTAFFE C of E SCHOOL**  
**(kept at the Records Office in Preston)**

**1881**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Heard this morning that Andrew Kennedy was supposed to be drowned. His cap was found on Saturday afternoon by the side of an old stone filled with water-not yet found him.

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Found A. Kennedy last night, he had been fishing as the fishing rod was in his hand when found.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>**

394 children had their tea in the schools and played in the field opposite.

**December**

Diphtheria in the school.

Sent several boys home for their money-one did not come back.

Very wet one day-only 68 present.

**1885**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Have had a class of girls in this week while a window is being put into the girl's room.

The girls in 4<sup>th</sup> Standard do their dictation better than the boys 4<sup>th</sup>.

**August 28<sup>th</sup>**

Had complaint that one of my boys had tarred two girl's pinafores, as the boy denied it with much apparent truth, I refused to take any notice of it, but referred it to his father.

The mother of the girls met the boy on the road and beat him.

**1886**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Queen visit to Liverpool. Holiday.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**

During the dinner hour today one of the boys in playing in the cricket field struck the ball into the adjoining field. Another got over the fence to fetch it. The manager of the Hall Farm which includes the said field, saw him and locked him up for the afternoon, besides grossly insulting the teachers who went to explain the circumstances.

### December 3<sup>rd</sup>

The behaviour of the boys lately has been rough and unmannerly particularly during the dinner hour. Have confined them for the present to the school yard.

### December 10<sup>th</sup>

Robert Alcock is away, has cut his fingers off with haycutter.

**1887**

### February 4<sup>th</sup>

The greatest fault at present is a want of tidiness and care.

### March 11<sup>th</sup>

More of the Rawsthorne family are ill with the fever, the doctor has forbidden any of the children to attend school for some time to come.

### April 4<sup>th</sup> 1887

#### Copy of Inspector's Report

The school is in very good order and discipline and has passed, on the whole, a highly creditable examination.

Reading is accurate in the First and Second Standard, but generally although in satisfactory condition as to intelligence, is wanting in expression.

Handwriting has been fairly well taught, and spelling is good throughout the school. On the other hand great poverty of ideas and want of originality are exhibited in the Composition of the Sixth Standard.

Arithmetic is in good condition and the number of problems successfully worked testifies to intelligent teaching in the subject of Grammar no more than the lower rate of payment is earned owing to thoughtless answering in the Third Standard, a good deal of weakness in the Fourth Standard and defective analysis in the Sixth Standard. The Poetry well understood should be recited with more expression.

Geography has been well taught but map drawing expected in the Fifth Standard.

### September 9<sup>th</sup>

Have taken the time beyond the minimum 2 hours this week for scripture as the examination is next week.

### October 28<sup>th</sup>

Standard 3 has worked less well this week, the monitor seems to be losing control.

### November 4<sup>th</sup>

Ed and William Rigby away, their father fell from a cart and was killed.

## 1888

### January 20<sup>th</sup>

Ralph Rawsthorne and John Swift away this week for no reason that I am aware of. Examined the Standards and find that they have gone back somewhat with the holidays.

### March 14<sup>th</sup>

The boys have been complained of today as going beyond their supposed limit in the cricket field.

### June 1<sup>st</sup>

The cold winds of the last month have produced a plentiful supply of colds and coughs.

### August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Work rather noisy at the beginning of the week.

### August 25<sup>th</sup>

The weather this week has been very stormy causing the attendance to be very irregular.

Thomas Marsh has been minding pheasants and his brother William will not come without him.

### November 9<sup>th</sup>

Thomas Roughly was caught swearing, not for the first time. Sent his father word: received a most irate note in return, saying if he swore he must have learnt it at school, and was doubtless not so bad as those who told of him: and if he had any more complaints he should take his sons away.

### November 27<sup>th</sup>

Fearfully wet day.

### December 7<sup>th</sup>

Henry Anderton away since Tuesday in consequence of his father having been killed in the pit.

## 1889

### January 11<sup>th</sup>

The boys have seemed slow and dull this week.

### **January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Monday was deep snow, the few who came dried themselves by the fire, played a time and then went home.

### **March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Samuel Rigby left to mind his mother who is ill in bed and no-one else to see to her.

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Began the new year with 110.

### **May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Henry Roby punished for his behaviour.

### **May 31<sup>st</sup>**

He didn't come in.

### **July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Henry Roby came back.

### **October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Yesterday violent storm. 34 boys came during the day.

### **October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Almost half the upper standards away potato picking.

### **October 25<sup>th</sup>**

William Williams and Richard Balls mother have sent me word, if I don't like them being away I can cross their names off and they can go to another school.

### **November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mr Bennion has been absent this week. Henry Large has had charge of Standards 1 and 2.

### **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Robert Alcock came back to school for the first time since the summer holidays.

### **November 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Fifth Standard is backward and slow.

## 1890

### January 10<sup>th</sup>

The attendance this week has been fair for the first week.  
Several boys bad with colds. Average attendance 108

### January 17<sup>th</sup>

In the main a wet week with irregular attendance.  
Standards 4, 6 and 7 considerably improved this week, 5 and 3 gone back.  
Standard 5 is particularly careless over their sums.  
Henry Large has begun to teach, taking Standard 3 regularly

### January 24<sup>th</sup>

This has been a week of storm and sickness.  
Wednesday were not able to mark, only 41 being present.  
Average 104.  
The vicar this evening gave a magic lantern exhibition to the children.

### January 31<sup>st</sup>

Slight improvement this week in all respects though the average is not much higher-  
105.  
Examined the Standards in order of merit are 7, 2, 6, 4, 3, 1, 5  
Most Standards improved since the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### February 7<sup>th</sup>

Henry Large taken ill on Wednesday morning and had to go home and has not been since.

### February 14<sup>th</sup>

A large amount of sickness.

### February 21<sup>st</sup>

Wet week has affected attendance

### March 7<sup>th</sup>

Fairly good attendance this week though 5 boys have been away sick the whole of the week.

### March 10<sup>th</sup>

Storm. Dried those who came and dismissed the school.

### March 28<sup>th</sup>

Thursday wet, has pulled the average down.

Three Rosbothams away from sickness. John Ball Latham has been away two weeks this quarter. Mother has promised he shall come next week.

### March 31<sup>st</sup>

Today closes the school year.

### Copy of the Report of Inspectors for the year ending March 31 1890

#### Boys School

The school is in a highly creditable state of attainment and intelligence in both elementary and class subjects. In the elementary work the only points which seem to require additional attention are handwriting on paper which wants care and uniformity.

The Reading and Composition of the 2 upper Standards and the class subjects throughout deserving great praise.

Grammar in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Standards and Geography, including map drawing in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Standards are excellent.

The discipline and the tone of the school are highly satisfactory and agreeable.

### April 1<sup>st</sup>

The new year begins today.

### April 4<sup>th</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Standard is getting on very nicely under Henry Large, the candidate.

### April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wet, numbers small.

### May 1<sup>st</sup>

Average 125

### May 16<sup>th</sup>

Several boys away working.

### May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Henry Foster has left to hang about home as he is not old enough for work.

### **May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Most of the mornings this week have been wet, which causes a small attendance for that day.

Some of the older boys at work in the fields and gardens.

### **June 7<sup>th</sup>**

Wet weather and irregular attendance.

The pupil teachers are getting on well with their classes.

### **June 14<sup>th</sup>**

The annual school treat.

### **June 27<sup>th</sup>**

Closed for the summer holidays.

Several away sick

John Allerton swallowed a half penny on the 14<sup>th</sup> and is still away.

### **July 27<sup>th</sup>**

Reopened

### **August 1<sup>st</sup>**

Heard result of pupil teacher examination in Physiography

Seddon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Large 1<sup>st</sup>

Also of drawing exam, both failed in freehand and passed in Geometry.

### **August 8<sup>th</sup>**

Received notice this morning from the Sanitary Officer for this district, that Ashcrofts (Barrow Nook) children are forbidden to come to school on account of scarlet fever.

### **August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

This has been a very irregular week partly caused by the wet weather, and partly by the harvest, 9 boys of Standards 5,6, and 7 being away for that purpose.

### **August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Wet day and very small attendance.

### **August 29<sup>th</sup>**

13 boys this week have been away employed in the harvest.

## **September 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Copy of the Inspectors Report**

The work done throughout the school is very satisfactory; discipline is very good and in all the groups the boys answer with readiness and intelligence. Writing from memory deserves special mention, and the abstracts of Scripture, History written by the boys of Group 1 are almost without exception, accurate, careful and neatly written.

Knowledge of the Catechism and Prayer Book and illustration of them from the parts of the Holy Scripture studied are very strong points in Groups 1 and 2.

Groups 3 has of course much more elementary teaching, the boys answer well and do credit to their teacher.

Present average 108.

## **September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance of the upper standards still keeps small.

## **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The boys are being employed in considerable numbers to pick potatoes.

Average 97.

## **October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Numbers low again today. This afternoon had only 7 boys present out of 16 in Standard 6.

## **November 7<sup>th</sup>**

Storm, have not held school today.

## **December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday and Thursday were wet causing some to stay away.

## **December 19<sup>th</sup>**

A bad week has ended in a snowstorm today. Dried the few who came and sent them home again.

**1891**

## **February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance not quite so good this week, several away with bad colds.

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Copy of Inspectors Report**

Careful, conscientious and intelligent work must have been done in this school throughout the year to produce the highly satisfactory results brought out by the examination with one exception (the Arithmetic of the 7<sup>th</sup> Standard). Both the elementary and class subjects have been taught in such a way as to develop the intelligence of the boys and to enable them to work accurately.

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Snowstorm. Kept the few who came till the weather was somewhat better and then sent them home.

### **April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Potato planting is beginning and I shall have difficulty in keeping the boys at school for the next months.

### **May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Readmitted W. Large.

### **June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Children have been rather tiresome this week.

### **June 26<sup>th</sup>**

The attendance has been poor this week partly through the rain.

### **August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Received notice this morning from the medical officer of certain families having whooping cough and forbidding them coming to school. Only one affects my school. Am accused of sending for children to school who have whooping cough. Have not done so.

### **August 28<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance very poor this week partly owing to the weather and partly owing to the harvest. More boys are being employed than usual on account of the bad weather.

### **September 4<sup>th</sup>**

There has been an improvement generally this week. Several who were away through the whooping cough in the family have come back.

### **September 11<sup>th</sup>**

Weather good, will tend to shorten harvest work.

### **September 18<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance keeps most irregular, Harvest, sickness and weather combining to produce irregularity.

### **September 25<sup>th</sup>**

Heard today that Robert Rimmer and James Harrison as they were going home through the fields drove a calf belonging to Mr Thos. Berry, into a brook and drowned it.

### **September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Storm, sent part of the few who came, home as they were very wet.

### **October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Received a letter this morning from the Sanitary Officer accusing A. Rimmer the Pupil Teacher in the infant school of threatening to stop parish relief of Mrs Langton if her children did not come to school though she had been forbidden to send them by the said officer requesting an explanation, failing which he should lay a complaint before the Educational Department. He moreover criticised the right of teachers to go or send after absentees. Replied during the day explaining that the Relieving Officer and not the Pupil Teacher had mentioned the relief money.

### **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Boys have not been able to play in their field on account of the soaked condition of the ground.

### **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Henry Large is away today, he sprained his ankle on the ice yesterday.

**1892**

### **January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Snow affected attendance.  
Henry Large has come back.

### **February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Have heard that Sanderson may return to school. Made last attendance in August last.

### **February 19<sup>th</sup>**

Monday was a bad day with a heavy fall of snow, very few boys came.

### **June 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### Copy of the HMI Report

The whole school in respect of order and conduct on the one hand, and attainment and intelligence on the other, is satisfactory in the highest degree. The greatest credit is done to the Master for the result he produces in the minds and morals of his scholars. J. Seddon and H. Large have passed fairly but Seddon should attend to ? and method.

### **June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Received notice of W. Rostrow coming to lecture in Temperance.

### **June 28<sup>th</sup>**

Had a visit today from the Medical Officer of Health, on account of the Scarlet Fever-one case in my school and 2 in the Girls. He seemed suspicious that I was hiding cases from him and threatened me with closing the school.

### **June 29<sup>th</sup>**

Received the regulations respecting the Rural Sanitary Authority and schools, this morning and also a notice forbidding the attendance of children from the houses of George Moss, Jervais Close and Thos Large.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Medical Officer of Health called today and told me of another case of Scarlet Fever at Barrow Nook-manner exceedingly insolent and insinuated I was not speaking the truth when I told him I did not know of it.

### **July 25<sup>th</sup>**

Schools disinfected today by the order of the Medical Officer of Health.

### **August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Ed Jones and Ed Cotham have gone back to the Rainford Coal Company's School as the distance to Bickerstaffe too far.

### **August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance has been small this week-a number of farmer's sons being employed in the fields.

### **September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Closed school today for 3 weeks to allow for the boys getting potatoes.

### **October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Reassembled after 3 weeks holidays but owing to the very bad weather the work of potato picking is only partly done and many boys still engaged.

### **November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance better this week, although 20 boys have been away all the week, most of them engaged in potato picking.

### **November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Cheadle staying away through measles in the house.

### **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

A great number away through sickness, chiefly measles and colds.

**1893**

### **January 13<sup>th</sup>**

Henry Large away sick.

### **January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Henry Large back at work.

### **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

This has been a wet week particularly Wednesday and Thursday. Most of those who came on Thursday morning were too wet to stay at school. Were sent home today with their clothes.

### **March 17<sup>th</sup>**

Several of the older boys away working in the fields.

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Copy of HMI Report**

For the elementary subjects are worked with great accuracy and neatness and the class subjects are well and intelligently prepared. Recitation, singing by note and drill were good. Discipline and tone are excellent.

Staff are JG Gilbert, master; John Bennion, assistant master; Joseph Seddon, 4<sup>th</sup> year pupil teacher; Henry Large, 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupil teacher; R Alcock, 1<sup>st</sup> year pupil teacher

### **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Received word this morning from the Sanitary Authority that no-one was to come to school from the house of Peter Shaw, Lords Row (the Aspinwalls) as there is Scarlet Fever in the house.

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

3 Aspinwall's and John Hilton away with sickness.

### **May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Commenced work this morning for new year. J. Seddon taking Standards 1 and 2 with help of William Dagnell who sat a candidate last Wednesday. H. Large has Standard 6.

### **May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Arranged lesson time for J. Seddon, H. Large, R. Alcock  
7.45am, 8.10am, 8.35am, so as to have separate time taken in rotation.

### **May 12<sup>th</sup>**

LW Large left for work.

### **June 10<sup>th</sup>**

School Treat today passed off well-with fine weather. 450 children had tea and prizes.

### **September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Today is wet causing low attendance.

### **December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Dreadfully wet; a small proportion came but they were so wet, had to send them home to dry their clothes.

**1894**

### **January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Recommenced work this week after Christmas holidays.  
Henry Large is taking Standard 2 with supervision of Standard 1.

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Report of HMI of Boys School examined

Attainments are excellent, both in accuracy and intelligence, and order and tone are admirable.

Map drawing and recitation deserve special commendation.

Staff: Mr John Gilbert, Messrs Henry Large, Robert Alcock and William Daggell, pupil teachers.

May 4<sup>th</sup>

A useful table with drawers and cupboards has been placed in the school.

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Admitted John Lewis: very tiresome boy.

May 25<sup>th</sup>

The Yeomanry passed through the parish yesterday: a number of boys stayed away to see them.

Pupil Teacher's quarterly exam.

August 1<sup>st</sup>

Wet, many caught in a heavy shower; had to be sent back.

August 8<sup>th</sup>

Had to complain today to the parent's of the pupil teachers for want of punctuality at lessons and to discontinue them until promise of amendments.

August 10<sup>th</sup>

Had complaint yesterday from the manager of Hall Farm that the boys have taken turnips on their way to your school.

August 24<sup>th</sup>

The harvest is keeping a number of the older boys at home.

August 29<sup>th</sup>

Received word today that H. Large had obtained a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scholarship

August 31<sup>st</sup>

Pupil teachers promised to be more regular. Recommence them on Monday.

September 17<sup>th</sup>

The Pupil Teachers were engaged in their lessons when I called at the school this morning at 8.30am (the vicar's comment).

### **October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Close today for 3 weeks holiday on account of potato picking which begun to affect attendance this week.

### **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Reopened on Monday with a small school, the bad weather of the week having prevented the potatoes being finished.

Thomas Jackson, Standard 5, caught cold on 24<sup>th</sup> October and died on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The boys attended his funeral on Monday last.

### **November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Less attendance this morning, the other departments being so low the committee have decided to close for this week and to meet again next Monday to see if sickness abating and if needful to close a second week.

### **November 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Medical Officer of Health gave us notice that the schools were not to reopen till 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **December**

Received notice today that the schools are not to reopen till the New Year.

**1895**

### **January 7<sup>th</sup>**

Opened today with 90 present. Snow on the ground.

Miss Gilbert commenced duties as assistant in my school in place of H. Large gone to college.

### **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

16 boys received certificates for Scientific Temperance Knowledge, awarded by the Juvenile Branch of the Diocesan Temperance Society.

### **March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Newton left till the warm weather comes.

### **March 8<sup>th</sup>**

WE Marsh has been away for nearly 3 weeks with bad feet.

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Last week Peter Shaw was told by his teacher to stay in at dinner time to finish a sum he had been idle over. Instead of doing so he went home and told his father he had been beaten. He has done this on several occasions. Gone to Rainford C of E School. Thos. and Henry Roby fetched from school on Monday morning, their mother was dead.

Taken from the boys school section of the 1880/1890s Logbook of Bickerstaffe C of E School- researched in May 2011.

